



REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 29, 2005 and references cited therein have been reviewed. Applicants have amended the claims to correct a number error in the claims. The claims included two claims numbered 12. The second claim numbered 12 has been renumbered to claim 13.

Original claims 1-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Crockett in view of Bates. Crockett is a 35 U.S.C. §102(e) reference that is combined with Bates to support a rejection of all the claims. Crockett and the present application are owned by the same assignee, namely Lincoln Global, Inc. as evidenced by the assignment of the present invention recorded at 015133/0223 and a copy of the assignment for Crockett which is enclosed herein. In view of the fact that the present invention and Crockett are owned by the same assignee, Crockett cannot be used as a prior art reference against the present invention in view of 35 U.S.C. §103(c). For at least this reason, the rejection of the claims based on Crockett and Bates should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,
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on 12-22-05

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(SIGNATURE)